and that is why a little time is being I taken.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir while giving reasons for the delay in the appointment the Minister has stated that he is looking for people of integrity. I fully share his sentiment that people of integrity should be appointed as Directors; there is no doubt about it. I would like to ask the Minister. Was he not aware that so many posts would fall vacant by 1st January 19h5? Is it always necessary that the search for men of integrity should start only after the vacancy occurs? Was there any restriction on the part of the Government that they should not initiate the process of appointing people well in advance? Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister what prevented the Government to search for men of integrity much before the vacancies occurred so that the functioning of the banks for which non-official Directors are essential wa_s not affected.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Pulls and pressures!

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI: Sir, the normal functioning of the banks is not at all aifected. The suggestions have been made earlier also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Only three Directors are there.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Withdrawal of excise duty of Jute goods

*304 SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the ' Minister of FINANCE | be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Manufacturers Associa- ' tion has pleaded for the withdrawal ' of excise duty on jute goods which accounts for about 10 percent of the present price of jute goods; and

(b) if so, what is Governments decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Government had received representation from the Indian Jute Mills Association requesting for abolition of excise duty of Rs. 660 per tonne on jute goods.

(b) These representations ha\'e been examined by the Government. Having regard to various factors like revenue implication, relatively lower incidence of duty of jute goods and price of raw jute Government have not agreed to the proposals for removal of excise duty on jute goods.

Central Excise and Customs Duties blocked in litigation

'310. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is th_e total amount of Central excise and customs duties blocked in litigation at present;

(b) what are the names of the companies against which outstanding claims exceed rupees one crore; and

(c) what effective steps are being taken to realise the amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Many of the cases relating to customs and central excise matters have a bearing on rate of duty, valuation and in some central excise cases, the excisability of the product. Therefore, precise quantification of revenue involved in individual cases is possible only after the court decisions are available.

(c) Every effort is being made through legal counsels appointed by Law Ministry for obtaining expeditious vacation of stays and for getting